

## WERMUTH'S PLAN TO RAISE MONEY MUST BE ADOPTED

Germany Is Forced to  
Accept Scheme Which  
Caused His Downfall.

## COUNTRY FACES GREAT DEFICIT

Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg Likely to Be Overthrown, as Was Present Chief Burgomaster of Berlin, but in End Kaiser Will Have His Way With Reichstag.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] Berlin, March 15.—Herr Wermuth, chief burgomaster of the city of Berlin, has every reason to feel satisfied at present, for, in order to carry through the new army bill and provide money to meet the enormously increased expense, the government will undoubtedly have to adopt the plan which he advocated, and which brought about his political downfall.

Until a year ago Herr Wermuth was the all-powerful Minister of Finance of the empire. He fell because he insisted that part of the burden of the new taxation to meet the new naval and military increases should be paid by those who inherited large fortunes and those who had large incomes. In other words, he urged the necessity of an inheritance and income tax, but his suggestion aroused the furious indignation of the conservative parties, the millionaires and the large estate owners, who claimed that it was an insult on the part of the Minister of Finance to propose that citizens who already had such great responsibilities as the possession of wealth carry with it should carry their special part of the increased burden of taxes.

At present the memory of the downfall of Herr Wermuth causes considerable anxiety. It is an indisputable fact that even as matters stand at present, there will be an imperial annual deficit of \$25,000,000 during the next four or five years. If the new military bills are passed this annual deficit will be at least \$75,000,000. Where is the money to come from? Those who have to pay, cannot do so, as they have already been stripped to the shirt, and those who are able to pay refuse to do so.

This is the present situation in a nutshell. The question is now whether it will be thought necessary to bring forward the hated inheritance and graduated income tax which Herr Wermuth demanded more than a year ago, or whether the government will attempt to continue the selfish policy which allows those who possess fortunes and estates to escape payment of taxes, while those who have next to nothing must be robbed of the little they still possess.

There is no doubt but that the new military demands will be accepted, but the question of how the millions are to be raised will bring about a struggle in which Imperial Chancellor Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg will have



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tempt to continue the selfish policy which allows those who possess fortunes and estates to escape payment of taxes, while those who have next to nothing must be robbed of the little they still possess.

There is no doubt but that the new military demands will be accepted, but the question of how the millions are to be raised will bring about a struggle in which Imperial Chancellor Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg will have

to bear the brunt of the battle.

In order to win new allies the Chancellor caused the Reichstag to repeal the old law against the Jesuits, but he did not quite succeed, for the law will still remain in force, as is shown by the fact that the Bundesrat opposed the suggestions made by the Catholics.

The political importance hereof is that the "Centrum," the largest party in the Reichstag, will continue to harbor bitter enmity against the Chancellor.

It will be exceedingly difficult for Bethmann-Hollweg to get any laws passed by the present Reichstag. The party of the Centre is thirsting for revenge, and on all questions where it has the support of the radical and Socialist parties, it will be able to defeat the government.

A German Imperial Chancellor, of course, does not resign because he has suffered defeat in the Reichstag, as he would have to do in the parliamentary states, but experience has shown that the Kaiser demands from his chancellors that they must be able to handle the Reichstag. When they are fortunate enough to pass great important bills, the Kaiser thinks no honor too great for them, makes them princes, covers their bosoms with decorations, but if they fail, if the Reichstag refuses to perform its tricks and turns, Emperor William does not hesitate long before he drops his Chancellor, as a most incompetent and unpatriotic statesman. It is not very likely that Von Bethmann-Hollweg will remain Chancellor much longer.

But that the new military laws will be passed is beyond any doubt. It is a strange sign of the times in Germany; the fate of all socially useful bills always hangs in the balance, but the success of any madcap military or naval bill is always assured from the start. To doubt this will almost be high treason.

Even the German Socialists will not oppose the increased military expenditure, but they will certainly insist that the increased burden must be carried by the broadest shoulders. They have already demanded, of course, with their usual bravado, that they "will not give a single man or a single penny to any Pretorian army," but this is not to be taken seriously. In this and they will submit, though it is more than likely that the bills will not be passed without a dissolution of the Reichstag.

Dissolution or no dissolution, however, in the end the Kaiser will win.

## EXPLAINS METHOD OF GETTING LAND

Stenographer Swears He Did Not  
Read Papers Bought  
to Him to Sign.

Chicago, March 15.—Methods by which Albert C. Frost and his assistants obtained land grants by the alleged use of "dummy entrainment" were related in the trial of the Alaskan coal land fraud cases to-day. H. N. Finley, a court stenographer, was the witness who detailed the methods of operation. His cross-examination was extended.

Finley testified that a Miss Tuttle, an employee of Frost, came to him in 1905 with some papers which she said her employer wished Finley to sign. The witness said he did not read the papers.

Finley said he did not learn until two years later that the papers were entry claims to coal lands.

"These entry blanks purport that you swore to the statements made in your application before George M. Seward," Special Prosecutor Townsend said. Seward is one of the defendants.

"I didn't swear to them," Finley replied.

Finley then detailed how arrangements were made for him to "prove up" the claim. He was told to tell the government inspector that he had spent \$2,200 on it, he said.

"You never intended to take the claim," he was asked.

"No, I thought I was doing Frost a favor. I did not even know what I was signing."

## LOVETT'S PLAN OF DISSOLUTION PUT IN DISCARD

Attorneys for Railroads  
Must Devise Another  
Scheme.

## DECREE OF COURT HELD IN ABEYANCE

Second Hitch in Proceedings to  
Dissolve Famous Harriman  
Merger Caused by Objection  
on Part of California Rail-  
road Commission—Action  
Comes as Surprise.

St. Louis, March 15.—The Union Pacific and Southern Pacific dissolution plan, which contemplated a traffic agreement between the two roads for the use of the Benicia short line, between Oakland and Sacramento, Cal., was abandoned in the Federal Court to-day by the railroad attorneys. It now devolves on the railway attorneys to devise a new arrangement to carry in to effect the dissolution decree of the United States Supreme Court.

The dissolution decree, which was certified to the District Court of Utah on February 10, gave the railroads three months to submit a satisfactory plan to the lower court. No date was set by the judges of the Eighth District Federal Court, sitting at the District Court of Utah, to-day for the rehearing of the case, but it is expected a new plan will be laid before the court some time in April. What arrangement the railway companies contemplate was not indicated by Chairman Robert S. Lovett, of the Union Pacific system, who announced abandonment of the second plan in court to-day. United States District Attorney Houts, who represented the Attorney-General in the proceedings to-day, has no information as to the further course contemplated by the railway representatives.

The arrangement which was abandoned to-day was the second plan drafted by the railway attorneys in an attempt to comply with the dissolution decree.

The first plan, submitted to the Circuit Judges on February 24, was modified because the California Railroad Commission objected to a clause providing for a lease of the Southern Pacific short line from Oakland to Sacramento to the Central Pacific, which in turn was to be taken over by the Union Pacific.

No Exclusive Use.  
The California Commission held that there should be no exclusive use of the short line by the two Harriman roads. The modified plan, abandoned to-day, provided for a traffic agreement between the Southern Pacific and the Union Pacific for the use of the short line instead of a lease.

The abandonment of this plan came as a surprise, as Mr. Lovett and his assistants came here expecting to present the new dissolution arrangement to the Circuit Judges for approval.

After his arrival in St. Louis, Chairman Lovett received a copy of the protest against the new plan filed by the California Railroad Commission with the Attorney-General.

Asserting that the approval of the California Commission was necessary to validate the proposed use of the Central Pacific by the Union Pacific, which in turn was necessary to satisfy certain French banking interests, Mr. Lovett announced that the Union Pacific could not go on with the plan. He asked the court to hold the final dissolution decree in abeyance.

Chairman Lovett in his address to the court did not mention the guarantee which the Union Pacific had given Kuhn, Loeb & Company, the banking firm which controls the stock distribution features of the dissolution. It is said that by the collapse of the plan the Union Pacific forfeits more than a \$1,000,000 commission to the banking syndicate.

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Sale starts Monday at 8:30 A. M.

## Odds and Ends From the Wire

### ASLEEP FROM BED TO MINE.

Tortuous Path of Man Who Indulges in

Mahogany City, Pa., March 15.—Retiring to bed at 9 o'clock, Enoch Chico, of Park Place, awoke to find himself, scantily clad, in the second lift of Park Place mine. How he got there he says he does not know, but admits having a tendency to walk in his sleep.

Chico's path from his bed to where he was found pitches at angles of 75 degrees, and how he escaped injury is marvelous.

### ANOTHER CULEBRA SLIDE.

Bottom of Cut Ripped Up for One Thousand

Feet When Earth Slips Again.

Panama, March 15.—The slide on the east bank of the Culebra Cut, which first moved February 5, made another rapid movement toward the canal yesterday.

It pushed the bottom of the cut up thirty feet for 100 feet, destroying five tracks and overturning two steam shovels. There is now only one construction track in operation.

After the slide ceased moving the work of removing the earth was immediately begun.

### THIRD-RAIL FISHPOLE KILLS.

Two Men Who Attached Wire for Night-

Line Electrocuted.

Lancaster, O., March 15.—While trying to fish in the Scioto River, two men attached a wire to the "third rail" of the Scioto Valley Traction Company, Dudley Carpenter and David Bobbitt, were electrocuted. The fish they sought were unharmed as far as is known.

The bodies of the two men were found at the place where the wire connections had been made, extending into the river. Bobbitt leaves a widow and seven children. Carpenter was unmarried.

### MRS. WILSON ALSO PRESIDENT.

Acceptance of Office Causes Fears of Con-

stitutional Crisis. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, who has been elected president of the Congressional Club when she accepted the office of honorary president, a position of the genus sinecure which President Wilson has so far refused to nibble at. The club's roster was sent by messenger and received an instant response. The club is composed of wives of men prominent in official life at the capital.

### DIES ERE SISTER IS BURIED.

Funeral Postponed So the Two Will Rest

Together.

Shanokin, Pa., March 15.—As everything was almost ready at the home of John Marley for the funeral of his daughter, Nellie, who died last Tuesday from acute indigestion, her younger sister, Anna, was suddenly prostrated with the same complaint, and died at short time later.

The funeral of the first sister was postponed, and the two will be buried at the same time Sunday.

### POSSE AFTER DEMON RUM.

Plainfield, N. J., March 15.—Acting upon

the request of Fred Probst, proprietor of the Washington House, Watchung, North Plainfield township, D. J. Anderson, chairman of the township committee, has appointed a board of protectors, comprising Dr. Charles E. Eaton, of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York; Dr. Richard Moldenke, mining expert, and Postmaster George Smith, all of whom live at Watchung.

The appointments are made under the law of 1899, known as the "Jag act," and are intended to prevent general drunkenness and the excessive use of alcohol.

### 102 CANDLES ON HIS CAKE.

Sparkill Centenarian Did It by Smoking and

Drinking.

Nyack, N. Y., March 15.—Charles Weidner

with a razor in the cellar of his home at 61 Fifty-seventh Street, Brooklyn.

When he had finished playing games with his six-year-old grandson in the dining room he threw away his cigar and went down into the cellar to get some more toys. After an unusual lapse of time his wife sent the boy down to find him. They boy a few minutes later came hurrying in with the news that "something dreadful has happened to grandpa."

A surgeon from the Norwegian Hospital found that Benson was dead. His wife said too much smoking had wrecked his nerves.

### Attention, Home Seekers.

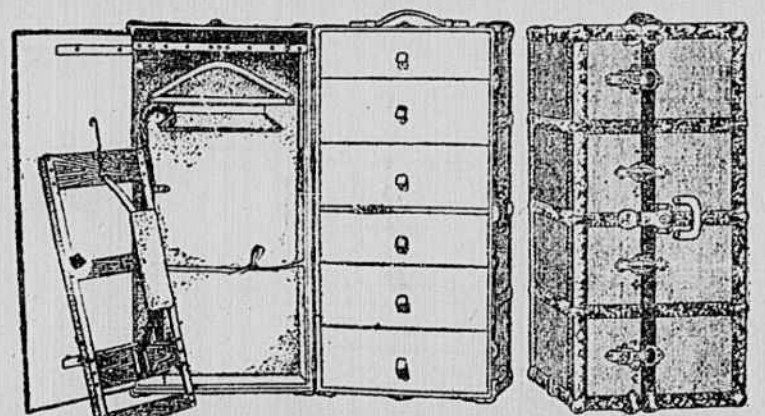
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